

Prentice Centre Bulletin



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND

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First Classical CD Launch over the Net

The resident University Ensemble, **Perihelion**, launched its latest CD on the Internet. It is believed this was a first for a classical music group in Australia.

Nicholas Bochner, Cellist and Artistic Manager of the ensemble, approached Prentice to arrange a live broadcast of the special performance over the internet. Using Cu-SeeMe off the University reflector and Apple Quicktime Media Conferencing, the launch was viewed from specially configured Macintosh computers at a rate of approximately 6 frames per second.

Jointly sponsored and produced by the University Technology Shop and VideoVision, the Prentice Centre expects to produce more live broadcasts using the converging technologies of networked computers and video.

For more information on the Internet broadcast, contact Stephen Atherton x53944.



Two members of Perihelion perform over the net. Image quality reduced due to frame rate and screen dump.

Prentice Client Web Pages

Next time you're browsing the World Wide Web, check out the Prentice Centre pages. If you're interested in purchasing computer hardware or software, you could first look at the University Technology Shop page (<http://techshop.cc.uq.edu.au/home.html>) which lists prices and product range.

Another web service under development is a page devoted to "Frequently Asked Questions" (<http://www.uq.oz.au/net-support/faq/>). Manager of Applications Development, Mike McCarthy, developed the site to allow staff and students ready access to valuable information to help solve some common computing problems.



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on this software and the pricing is available through your Departmental Liaison Officer (DLO). In some cases, your DLO can download the software direct from a Prentice Server. Often copies of the technical manuals for popular software programs are already held in your department. Ask your DLO what is available.

For more information, contact your DLO or e-mail Warren Cash, Software Licensing Officer, at cclicens@cc.uq.edu.au.

Life, The University and 42

After a combined 42 years of employment at the University, two senior members of Prentice staff are leaving.

Tony Bird, Associate Director, Technology Products is taking early voluntary retirement. Allan Woodland, Associate Director, Operations has been asked to manage Facilities Management Services at Mincom.

Allan first joined Prentice as a trainee programmer in 1976. His skills and talent led him over the twenty years to senior management. Well known to readers of the "Staff House News" Allan spent 12 years with the Staff Club Wine Committee contributing to the cultural and social experiences of the University community.

Tony came to this University in 1973 from the Victoria University of Wellington, where he was the Assistant Registrar. He held administrative appointments in JD Story and three faculties before coming to the Prentice Centre in 1979. Tony served as Secretary of the University Computing Policy Committee and contributed to the Prentice Centre Management Committee. In recent years he has been mostly involved with the PC area and has managed Workstation Support and the University Technology Shop.

Tony and Allan reflected on their working life and the future of the computing industry.

Allan: I'm looking forward to the challenges of managing a larger team in a private company. But I'll certainly miss this place and the people. The University is a pleasant environment and it's been a very good place to work. If this opportunity hadn't come along - I'd be happy to continue working here.

Tony: I'll be happy spending voluntary early retirement having more time with my children, gardening and fishing. Did I tell you I am going to learn to play the piano with my daughter, Katie? We're having the first lesson next week.



Allan Woodland (left) and Tony Bird toast the future after a combined 42 years with The University of Queensland.

What are some of the significant changes you've witnessed over the years?

Tony: The rate of change. The first systems that came out in the late fifties were the same for 10 years. In a decade, the hardware, concepts and programming didn't change. In the nineties, PCs change every 18 months. You know, in 1963, I started on a machine with 4K. The standard entry PC level today is about 8 MB! (8192K).

Allan: For me it was the shift from central to departmental computing in the eighties for teaching and research. But people are recognising that IT (information technology) is taking more management than they at first realised. So we now have the situation where people are flocking back to get computing support.

What do you see as the future of computing?

Tony: It's all about information. The forecasts said that computing would be commonplace in our motor cars and fridges. Parallels were drawn with the ubiquitous electric motor. But what is surprising is the spectacular growth in the consumer market. The impact of computing on fridges and cars is less apparent than

that on the Web, Multimedia and networking. Computing is like a chameleon — very versatile and this is why it is still around and not just a fad.

Allan: Voice recognition is happening, but in a gradual way. The telephone, the home PC, TV, home buying — the major drivers are communication and access to information. I think the advent of the Internet in general and the Web in particular is as important now as was the industrial revolution or the printing press. It is breaking down national boundaries and it is very hard to control. Computing was seen to be about automation, but this is all about communication.

Over the years, the two men have made their mark on the University. Tony's contribution to the Centre's development has been extremely valuable. Lunch discussions will not be the same without his knowledge of English history, solving many debates with his characteristic rhetoric, imbued with skill and colour.

Allan, respected as both manager and programmer, will be a hard act to follow. Many will miss his calm and proficient demeanour. Prentice wishes Tony and Allan all the best for the future.